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market closing firm. Freighters opened for  
British ports, but closed with a firm offer. En-  
gagements of flour and grain to Liverpool and London  
were pretty freely made, at rates given in an-  
other column.

Important intelligence from Mexico, relative to  
the demonstration of the Spanish fleet upon Vera  
Cruz, is given on the second page of to-day's  
HERALD. The Spanish Minister had arrived at the  
capital, but at last accounts had not been officially  
received.

Our latest files of French papers, dated at Paris  
on 30th and Havre on 31st May, do not contain a  
single word of news relative to the reception of  
Padre Viji, as Nicaraguan Minister by our govern-  
ment.

Our correspondent at Port au Prince, writing on  
the 2d instant says, that yellow fever still prevailed  
there, although not in a virulent form. The country  
was rather agitated in a political sense, but nothing  
of war or revolution was in prospect. The products  
of the country were becoming more abundant,  
and trade, both foreign and domestic, was improv-  
ing.

Property owners and residents on Fifth avenue  
are suffering from apprehensions of a railroad being  
constructed through that thoroughfare. In another  
column will be found a report of what was said upon  
the subject before a meeting yesterday of the Coun-  
cilmen Committee on Streets, relative to the exten-  
sion of Laurens street to connect Fifth avenue,  
and the counter proposition to extend Sixth avenue  
to the junction of Broome and Laurens streets.  
The ulterior project is understood to be to extend  
College place to the Battery, and with this street  
thus extended, and connecting with West Broad-  
way and Laurens street, to form a continuous street  
from down town parallel with Broadway. The  
question is as to connecting the street with the Sixth  
or the Fifth avenue. In the latter case, it is sup-  
posed a railroad through Fifth avenue must neces-  
sarily follow. Parties desirous of forming a Fifth  
avenue railroad company to the Battery, by Lau-  
rens street, West Broadway and College place, are  
stated as being at the bottom of the project.

The shareholders of the Academy of Music pro-  
perly met in the building last night, in order to  
take measures to relieve the company from its pre-  
sent financial embarrassment. No definite action  
was had, but it was determined not to sell the prop-  
erty if possible. An addition of one hundred new  
members was advocated. A committee was ap-  
pointed with power to draw up a report, under  
legal advice, to be presented at a future meeting.

**Projected Conquest of Mexico by the Euro-  
pean Powers—Probable War Between Euro-  
pean and American.**

In another column will be found mention of  
the semi-blockade—for it amounts to this—of  
the port of Vera Cruz by a Spanish squadron  
from Cuba. The pretext is this. In 1853 the  
Mexican government owed money to various in-  
dividuals, among others several subjects of the  
Spanish crown. In that year a convention was  
made by the existing government of Mexico with  
that of Queen Isabella, providing for the settle-  
ment of these claims. It is charged by the Span-  
iards that Mexico has not only failed to fulfil her  
bargain, as stipulated in the treaty, but has used  
force and fraud to deprive the creditors of the  
evidence of their debt. This has been denied by  
the Mexican authorities. While the controversy  
was pending, an inquiry was made of the Span-  
ish Ministry in the Cortes whether any steps had  
been taken to bring Mexico to reason; and the  
Minister answered (the conversation will be  
found in another column) that all the disposable  
naval force of Spain had been sent to enforce the  
demand preferred by the Spanish Ambassador  
upon the Mexican government; that it was hoped  
that the matter might be settled without a re-  
course to violence; but that, under any circum-  
stances, Spain would insist on her view of the  
controversy being practically acknowledged to be  
the right one. The Spanish Cortes were quite  
eager for war with Mexico. On the other hand,  
we learn from the city of Mexico that the pre-  
valing feeling there was adverse to any negotia-  
tion on the subject of the Spanish claims so long  
as the Spanish fleet remained off the Coast of  
San Juan d'Ulloa.

It is not our business to enter into a discussion  
of the illegitimacy or rightfulness of the Spanish  
claims. Their character concerns the Mexicans  
and Spaniards alone; but an invasion of Mexico  
by the Spaniards would concern us in a very  
marked and particular manner. And we are  
bound to say that to us that seems by no means  
an unlikely contingency. To raise money is be-  
yond the power of the present Mexican govern-  
ment; to deliberate, to strain their resources un-  
der an armed threat, to submit to be dishonored  
in the eyes of all the world by the decayed and  
broken down power of Spain—this is not what  
may be expected from the government of Senor  
Comonfort.

Though the course of Spain appears, on the  
face of the documents, to be a spontaneous move-  
ment on the part of her ministry, prompted solely  
by private feelings, it is in all probability the  
fruit of a decision of the principal European Powers.  
The tripartite treaty—between Great Britain,  
France and Spain, for the protection of Spanish  
interests on this continent or this hemisphere—is  
well known to all. At the time of the close  
of the Peace Conference at Paris it was popu-  
larly rumored in that city that the con-  
tracting Powers had come to a secret un-  
derstanding with regard to the relations of Spain  
and the United States. The rumor excited but  
little talk, as it was not seen how or where the  
United States and Spain could come into colli-  
sion; but if a Spanish intervention in Mexico,  
with an ultimate view to the reconquest of that  
country, was among the future objects con-  
templated at the time, a war between Spain and  
the United States may naturally have been regarded  
as a very likely consequence of the movement,  
and the powerful allies of Spain may naturally  
have offered to see her through the peril.

The matter may yet, happily, be regarded with  
coolness; Mexico is not yet conquered; but no  
one can reflect for a moment upon the position of  
the fleet now lying in the harbor of Vera Cruz  
without perceiving that we are approaching a  
most critical and alarming period of our history.

Satisfaction or concession are not to be expected  
from the Comonfort government; there is nothing  
for the Spanish fleet to do but to bombard San  
Juan and seize Vera Cruz, as a stepping stone to  
the conquest of the country; or to withdraw de-  
feated—a thing which they can hardly be expected  
to do. The chances appear very strongly in  
favor of their adoption of the former course; and  
unless the stories which were lately current in  
Paris, the published accounts of the tripartite  
treaty, and the late striking indications of the  
interest taken by the French Emperor in  
Spanish affairs, are all deception together, the  
chances are, moreover, that the Spaniards  
invade Mexico with the concurrence, and  
the moral support of at least the maritime  
Powers of Europe. How soon this moral sup-  
port might be converted into a material alliance  
would probably depend on circumstances. Spain,  
with a disciplined army of 10,000 men, might  
conquer Mexico; she might require foreign help,  
if Mexico had any friends. But to show the

this contingency may not have been overlooked,  
it is rather curious that not only have the mari-  
time Powers lately strengthened their naval  
force in this hemisphere, but Prussia, Austria and  
Russia have also sent squadrons to this station,  
ostensibly for the protection of emigrants. If—  
to suppose a case—the Peace Conference, after  
their work was done, had listened to the en-  
trearies of the Spanish Minister, and taken in  
hand the case of Mexico, Spain and Cuba; if the  
Spaniard had proposed to them to steal a leaf  
from the Ostend Conference book, and seize  
Mexico as a material guarantee both for the set-  
tlement of the Spanish claims and for the good  
behavior of this country; if Spain had agreed to  
take the initiative, while the other Powers stood  
by and looked on, ready to interfere in case any  
strong Power took the side of Mexico, what more,  
what else would have happened besides what we  
have seen?

Mr. Gadsden has just returned from Mexico,  
with a new commercial treaty in his pocket.  
Rumor says that that treaty contains  
to grant to the United States many com-  
mercial privileges, including the right of  
way across Tehuantepec, in return for their pro-  
tection in case of trouble between Mexico and  
any European Power. Many will hope this is so.  
If there is a treaty, of course there can be no  
hesitation in the mind of the President how to  
act. But, at any rate, the United States cannot  
sit by quietly and see Spain re-conquer Mexico  
and set up a new monarchy upon some junior  
member of the reigning house. A war with  
Europe would be bad, but this would be worse,  
beyond all doubt.

We trust that some member of Congress will  
take the earliest opportunity of requesting of  
the President all the information he has, both on  
the subject of the commercial treaty and on the  
movement of the Spanish fleet. If Europe will  
not let us be at peace, let us, at all events,  
not drift into war blindfold.

**THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION—MORE  
DISPUTES WITH ENGLAND.** The enlistment dif-  
ficulty is now a mere matter of history, however it  
ends, and whatever becomes of Mr. Dallas. But  
the Central American difficulty is unsettled, and  
will, we fear, continue in that state for some time  
to come. It is in reality one of those disputes  
which appear very easy on the surface to settle;  
but which, when they are approached and ex-  
amined closely, present difficulties of remarkable  
intricacy.

The chief of these arises from the astonishing  
prejudice which the English seem to display on  
the subject of Central America. Englishmen reason  
invariably as though England was equi-dis-  
tant from Nicaragua with the United States.  
They have no colonies of any consequence, no in-  
terests, no settlements, no allies even, within  
reach of mischief, whatever happens to Central  
America; the United States are close neighbors  
of all the Central American States, and Central  
America is their only highway from one class  
of States to the other. Yet the English will never  
allow that this country ought to have the least  
preponderance there. What if the United States  
meddled in the concerns of Belgium or the Hanse  
towns?

Again, the English seem to have made up their  
minds irrevocably that Walker is an embodiment  
of all the grosser vices, and that his success in  
Central America is a consummation which Pro-  
vidence and every true Briton ought to labor to  
avert. Why so? Is it because the governments  
which Walker is overthrowing were never able to  
offer travellers or settlers a decent security for  
life and property? Is it because an Englishman  
could not do business with Nicaragua or Costa  
Rica with any degree of safety until Walker came?  
The past condition of these countries has been a  
disgrace to the world and a serious injury  
to all mercantile nations, England especially;  
now, for the first time, there is a chance that  
sound institutions of the Anglo-Saxon stamp will  
be set up there, and that a demand for British  
goods will spring up where there never was a  
dollar's worth of British goods before. Is this so  
great an injury to England?

But, the English say, Nicaragua will be annexed  
to the Union. If it were, how would that  
injure England? But, in fact, there are far more  
advocates for the annexation of Canada than for  
that of Nicaragua, and the former is by far the  
more likely event. Reasons which, perhaps,  
foreigners cannot well appreciate, would wholly  
prevent a proposal for the annexation of Nicara-  
gua from obtaining ten votes in Congress.

It is greatly to be feared that the English are  
allowing their French friends to push them on  
towards unpleasant relations with this country,  
when their real interest lies in the opposite direc-  
tion. France would be a gainer by a war be-  
tween the United States and England—such is  
Napoleon's calculation (as it was Choiseul's), to  
which he will adhere till he tries it—and, there-  
fore, the most must be made of the question of  
Central America. Hence the very abusive arti-  
cles in the French papers, especially those con-  
cerned with the government; and hence, per-  
haps, the bold movements of Spain, which are  
noticed elsewhere. But if the English allow  
themselves to be made the tools of Louis Napo-  
leon's ambitious projects, the evil consequences  
will not fall wholly on their antagonists, and a  
sore will be opened that will run for years.

Look at the Central American question with-  
out prejudice—bury the Clayton-Bulwer treaty  
very deep indeed—and leave the questions in  
dispute to some one, or three good men, to be  
settled once and for ever. And let this be done soon,  
for a new boundary dispute—the worst we have  
known yet—is about to arise. Our Northwestern  
boundary has got to be re-drawn, and may Pro-  
vidence save us from the politicians that will have  
to arrange it!

**MORE MORMONS.**—The good ship Thornton,  
from Liverpool, with seven hundred and fifty  
Mormons on board, arrived at this port yester-  
day, and the saints were safely housed in the  
emigrants' retiring rooms at Castle Garden be-  
fore night. They are a solid and comfortable  
looking body of passengers for the New Jerusa-  
lem of the Great Salt Lake. See our reporter's  
account in another column.

At this rate of increase—for the brethren ap-  
pear to be sending out to the Salt Lake re-  
inforcements at the rate of from twenty to thirty  
thousand a year—at this rate, we say, the Mor-  
mon Territory of Utah, upon the score of popu-  
lation, will probably be entitled to admission be-  
fore Kansas, notwithstanding the fact that Utah  
appears, and this Kansas fairs and fairs, to be  
wholly overlooked. At all events they may ex-  
pect at Washington, in a week or two, a formal  
application from the saints of Utah for admission  
into the Union as a sovereign State, polygamy  
and all. And here comes in a nice question—  
nicer than niggers—between Congress and equal-  
ity of sovereignty. Does Congress or does squatter  
sovereignty cover the question of polygamy?

Does the constitution reach it? What is to be  
done with it? The question will soon be put,  
and it will have to be met. We should, in the  
meantime, like to have the opinion of some of  
our belligerent clergymen, so anxious about the  
nigger question in Kansas, whether, under the  
constitution, a State can or cannot be admitted  
into the Union, the religion of which State allows  
a man two, five, ten or fifty wives at his discre-  
tion. Utah and the saints must be looked after.

**MORALS ABROAD—CONVICTION OF PALMER.**—  
The last English mails bring us the conclusion of  
the trial of Palmer, who has been convicted of  
the poisoning of a sporting friend of the name of  
Cook, by administering antimony and strichnine.  
We do not regard the incidents of this trial, ably  
conducted as it was, nor the graphic illustrations  
in the English papers of the life and times of the  
convict; nor shall we eulogize the sternness of  
English law, which is no respecter of persons.  
But, as indications of morals and tastes abroad,  
the circumstances are instructive. This is an-  
other instance of a most fatal tendency in the  
sporting and fashionable ranks of English society;  
among those first at the race course and last on  
the exchange, who live for the gratification of  
taste and fashion only, and who have ceased to  
be truly English.

But a short time since, we saw an eminent  
banking house, which had engulfed alike the  
savings of the studious, the incomes of the rich  
and the revenues of the religious, driven from the  
highest and most commanding walks in life to the  
table, and the dock, and the prison. A mem-  
ber of Parliament—a giant in forgery  
and false pretences—extended in desperation  
a lifeless corpse, by his own self-punish-  
ing hand; and now a hero of the Derby  
and the Oaks, sentenced to the gallows  
for poisoning a lucky companion. If we cross  
the Channel, we see also the beginning of a similar  
end. Louis Napoleon, who has ventured much  
himself, has interdicted his own immediate  
dependents from speculating on the Bourse. But  
the mania is unchecked. Speculation and its at-  
tendant venality and hardihood is still carrying  
on its work, and public and private honor is de-  
bauched by the desire of sudden wealth and im-  
mediate enjoyment.

The truth is that quite a large portion of the  
aristocratic classes of both England and France  
is sadly dissipated and unprincipled. Not long  
since a British peer had to pay enormous losses  
in stocks incurred by a pretty and reckless wife.  
All this may be attributed to the spirit of specu-  
lation which is now infecting society, and it is  
our opinion that we have not yet heard of all the  
miseries which are inevitable. We venture to  
predict that more and more are to follow,  
to shock public feeling and to shake our  
confidence in men and manners. The ardent de-  
sire of obtaining wealth, that it may be expended  
in fashionable folly, and the lack of principle  
which induces the attempt, are full of warning,  
and we cannot shut our eyes to the sad conse-  
quences which must ensue. The aristocracy of  
both France and England, and many of the mid-  
dling classes, are following a career disastrous  
to virtue and humanity. Their minds are bent  
upon physical enjoyment, cost what it may. To  
compass this, all the restraints of honor, of truth  
and morality are pushed aside, and the most  
frightful examples of the consequences of their  
disregard do not seem to make any impression.  
Races must be run, prima donnas must be  
idolized, and industry must be despoiled that  
pleasure may be enjoyed and high life indulged in.

We turn from the picture with the most pain-  
ful feelings. We reverse the opinion of Burke, and  
assert that vice, in losing outward its deformity  
does not lose its grossness, but that its progress,  
though gilded for a time by success, is still the  
basest and most unprofitable of human produc-  
tions.

**NEW SITE FOR A CITY POST OFFICE.**—We  
learn that the Post Office Department has expe-  
rienced a good deal of trouble in its efforts to se-  
cure a new location for our city Post Office. The  
committee appointed by the Department at Wash-  
ington has examined into the merits of some ten  
or a dozen applications, and have found only two  
sites that came up to the mark—the one "the old  
brick church" location, fronting the Park, Beck-  
man street and Nassau—the other, on the oppo-  
site side of the Park, in Chambers street, being  
nothing more nor less than the site now occupied  
by Burton's theatre. The brick church property  
has been bought by Wesley and others, upon a  
speculation, at \$180,000, more or less; but we  
understand there is some difficulty in getting a  
legal title to it. However that may be, if Uncle  
Sam should be willing to risk it, and think the lo-  
cation well worth three or four hundred thousand  
dollars, we suppose that Wesley & Co. will expe-  
rience very little difficulty in transferring the  
property. The Committee of the Department, as  
between the "brick church" and Burton, are  
hesitating "which of the two to choose." A  
pretty big figure is asked for the church site on  
account, perhaps, of the superior sanctity of the  
place; while Burton's location being only that of a  
theatre, may be had at a figure of a hundred thou-  
sand or so less than the asking price of the hold-  
ers of the church. It has been reported that  
Burton had sold, but he is still in the market,  
awaiting, we suppose, the decision of the govern-  
ment agents. When they shall have made their  
decision the public will be duly informed whether  
the site for our future city Post Office is that of  
the "old brick church" or Burton's theatre.

**CONVICT LEXISATION.**—The system of the  
lobby spoils and plunder legislation at Wash-  
ington has arrived at the highest degree of per-  
fection. They have recently passed a whole string  
of land speculating railroad bills, without leav-  
ing a trace behind. The committees made no  
reports, there were no inquiries, no ex-  
planations, and they have left us not a vestige of  
information as to the division of these spoils  
among the speculators inside, or outside among  
the lobby. By this system of legislation "mum  
the word," and it works to a charm; for within  
a few weeks, without an effort in any case, fif-  
teen or twenty millions of dollars worth of public  
property have been pocketed or secured by the  
spoilsmen concerned in this royal game of "one  
good turn deserves another." And Mr. Pierce  
signs these speculating railroad bills without a  
why or a wherefore, while other bills making ap-  
propriations to clear out rivers and harbors are  
killed with a veto because they violate the federal  
constitution. Bah!

**SENATE.**  
WASHINGTON, June 16, 1856.  
The Senate met at 10 o'clock, and the session  
was opened by the reading of a resolution,  
which was adopted, calling on the President to com-  
municate a copy of the instructions to Mr. Buchanan on "free  
ships making free goods," and Mr. Buchanan's letter to  
Lord Clarendon on the same subject.  
THE PARTICIPATION OF KANSAS.  
Mr. CLAYTON, (K. N.) of Del., said it would be remem-  
bered he had carefully abstained from uttering, during  
the present session, one word calculated to add to the  
excitement growing out of the present distressing oc-  
currences in Kansas. He had endeavored to conciliate  
all parties, in order that he might, on some suitable oc-  
casion, present a measure of harmony, justice and peace.  
He now rose for the purpose of making the propo-  
sition in the sincerity